



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

### Register Entry

1. **DATA BASE No.** 25362
2. **NAME** Little Wilgie Ochre Mine, Cue (30,000 years BP; 1944)  
**FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES)**
3. **LOCATION** Weld Range, Cue
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
  1. Reserve 21805 being Lot 198 on Deposited Plan 193076 and being the whole of the land in Crown Land Title Volume 3109 Folio 208;
  2. Portion of Lot 133 on Deposited Plan 238195 being part of the land in Crown Land Title Volume 3139 Folio 630;  
together as shown on HC Curtilage Map P25362-C
5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** Shire of Cue
6. **OWNER AT REGISTRATION**
  1. State of Western Australia (Responsible Agency: Department of Aboriginal Affairs; Management Order Holder: Department of Aboriginal Affairs)
  2. State of Western Australia (Responsible Agency: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)
7. **HERITAGE LISTINGS**
  - Register of Heritage Places: 09/05/2022
  - National Trust Classification: -----
  - Town Planning Scheme: -----
  - Municipal Inventory: -----
  - Register of the National Estate: -----
  - Aboriginal Sites Register Registered site 32734 13/11/2021
8. **ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT**  
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9. **HERITAGE AGREEMENT**  
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## 10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Little Wilgie Ochre Mine, Cue*, a former red ochre mine site that includes an Aboriginal artefact scatter, rock shelters, caches and an ochre mine, as well as later (1944+) artefacts associated with commercial ochre mining, including survey markers (undated), mine shafts, and introduced plants has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place demonstrates two distinct cultural layers, the original Aboriginal occupation and mining and the later 20th century non-indigenous mining, both activities exceptionally rare examples of co-located mining activities;

the place has been a site of the mining and trade of red ochre by Aboriginal people for ceremonial use for thousands of years, with the ochre traded across the state and beyond;

as a ritually 'open' site, the place has significant potential to improve understanding of Aboriginal life in the Weld Ranges region prior to colonisation and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site demonstrating food processing, tool manufacture and mining techniques.

the place is a significant part of the Aboriginal story of how the Weld Ranges came to be formed, the wounded Marlu Dreaming ancestor lying down and bleeding at Little Wilgie before dying at Wilgie Mia, creating the red ochre at these sites from its blood; and,

the place demonstrates the legal controls over Aboriginal people and places by the State government, with commercial activity at the site either encouraged or restricted depending on the views of the day.